

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method comprising:  
2           receiving one or more digits of a candidate communication number;  
3           searching a database for a communication number corresponding to the one or  
4           more digits of the candidate communication number;  
5           locating within the database a communication number corresponding to the one or  
6           more digits of the candidate communication number; and  
7           transmitting a located communication number to a presenting location prior to  
8           receiving an entire candidate communication number.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the communication number comprises a  
2           telephone number.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 2, wherein the database contains one or more  
2           telephone numbers previously dialed from a telephone.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 2, wherein the database contains one or more  
2           telephone numbers of one or more devices previously attempting to establish a  
3           connection with a telephone.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein the database is located in a telephony  
2           system.

1           6.       The method of claim 1, wherein the database is located in the telephone.

1           7.       The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting location comprises the  
2   telephone.

1           8.       The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting location comprises a data  
2   display location of the electronic system.

1           9.       The method of claim 1, wherein the database is located in a computer  
2   network.

1           10.      The method of claim 1, wherein searching the database for the  
2   communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate  
3   communication number comprises searching the database after receiving each digit  
4   following a group of the one or more digits of the candidate communication number.

1           11.      The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the located communication  
2   number to the presenting location prior to receiving the entire candidate communication  
3   number comprises:

4           transmitting one or more located communication numbers corresponding to the  
5   one or more digits of the candidate communication number from the database to the  
6   presenting location prior to receiving the entire candidate communication number; and

7 reducing the one or more located communication numbers, as the one or more  
8 located communication numbers fail to contain each subsequently received digit of the  
9 candidate communication number.

1 12. A method comprising:  
2 receiving from a digit inputter of a telephone a partial telephone number having  
3 one or more digits corresponding to a candidate communication number;  
4 searching a database for a telephone number corresponding to the partial  
5 telephone number;  
6 locating in the database one or more telephone numbers corresponding to the  
7 partial telephone number; and  
8 returning to a display screen of the telephone one or more located telephone  
9 numbers, prior to receiving an entire candidate telephone number.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the digit inputter comprises a telephone  
2 keypad.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the digit inputter comprises a voice-  
2 activated dialing mechanism.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the database is located in the telephone.

1           16.     The method of claim 12, wherein the database is located in a telephony  
2     system.

1           17.     The method of claim 12, wherein the database contains one or more  
2     telephone numbers previously dialed from the telephone.

1           18.     The method of claim 12, wherein the database contains one or more  
2     telephone numbers of one or more incoming telephone calls to the telephone.

1           19.     The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
2             receiving a selection indication to select a located telephone number appearing on  
3     the display screen of the telephone; and  
4             dialing, as a result of receiving the selection indication, a selected located  
5     telephone number appearing on the display screen of the telephone.

1           20.     An article of manufacture comprising:  
2             a machine-accessible medium including thereon sequences of instructions that,  
3     when executed, cause an electronic system to:  
4             receive one or more digits of a candidate communication number;  
5             search a database for a communication number corresponding to the one or more  
6     digits of the candidate communication number;  
7             locate within the database a communication number corresponding to the one or  
8     more digits of the candidate communication number; and

9 transmit a located communication number to a presenting location prior to  
10 receiving an entire candidate communication number.

1 21. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of  
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to receive one or more  
3 digits of the candidate communication number comprise sequences of instructions that,  
4 when executed, cause the electronic system to receive the one or more digits of a  
5 candidate telephone number.

1 22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the sequences of  
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to search the database for  
3 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate  
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause  
5 the electronic system to search a database containing one or more telephone numbers  
6 previously dialed from a telephone for the communication number corresponding to the  
7 one or more digits of the candidate communication number.

1 23. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the sequences of  
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to search the database for  
3 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate  
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause  
5 the electronic system to search a database containing one or more telephone numbers of  
6 one or more devices previously attempting to establish a connection with a telephone for

7 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate  
8 communication number.

1 24. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of  
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to search the database for  
3 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate  
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause  
5 the electronic system to search a database located in a telephony system for the  
6 communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate  
7 communication number.

1 25. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of  
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to search the database for  
3 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate  
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause  
5 the electronic system to search a database located in the telephone for the communication  
6 number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate communication number.

1 26. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of  
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to transmit the located  
3 communication number to the presenting location prior to receiving the entire candidate  
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause

5 the electronic system to transmit the located communication number to a telephone prior  
6 to receiving the entire candidate communication number.

1 27. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of  
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to transmit the located  
3 communication number to the presenting location prior to receiving the entire candidate  
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause  
5 the electronic system to:

6 transmit one or more located communication numbers corresponding to the one or  
7 more digits of the candidate communication number from the database to the presenting  
8 location prior to receiving the entire candidate communication number; and

9 reduce the one or more located communication numbers, as the one or more  
10 located communication numbers fail to contain each subsequently received digit of the  
11 candidate communication number.

1 28. An apparatus comprising:

2 a communication number digits receiver to receive one or more digits of a  
3 candidate communication number;

4 a communication number searcher coupled with the communication number digits  
5 receiver to search a database for a communication number corresponding to the one or  
6 more digits of the candidate communication number; and

7 a communication number transmitter coupled with the communication number  
8 searcher to transmit to a presenting location one or more located communication numbers

9 corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate communication number prior to  
10 receiving an entire candidate communication number.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the communication number comprises  
2 a telephone number.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the presenting location comprises a  
2 telephone.

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